

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 993

By Ramsey

A RESOLUTION to recognize Sara Alene Swaney on the occasion of her retirement from the Office of Legal Services of the General Assembly.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this General Assembly should especially recognize and honor those persons within the legislative family who have long served with loyalty, passion and commitment to the goodness and value of the fine art of lawmaking within a free society; and

WHEREAS, for thirty-four years, Sara Alene Swaney, affectionately known to all as Sally, has been a mainstay of the Office of Legal Services and has faithfully and adroitly served as legal counsel for the State and Local Government Committee of the House of Representatives; and

WHEREAS, native Pennsylvanians in search of a land of milder climate, Sally and her dearly departed husband, Donal, in 1978 chose Tennessee to be their adopted homeland, a decision that has proven exceedingly fortuitous for the good people within and beyond Wilson County who have become neighbors, friends, colleagues and acquaintances of this fine "naturalized" Tennessee citizen; and

WHEREAS, over the course of her long and industrious career, her professional best has been daily complemented by her grace, gentility and acquired southern charms. She is kind, discerning and benevolent in every setting, be it in her public life of governmental service or her private life of faith, family, and friends; and

WHEREAS, to her colleagues in the workplace, Sally is an anchor, so well-grounded in the content of the law and so skilled in the construction thereof. Her guidance to junior attorneys is priceless, and her interplay with her senior peers is powerful. She is astute in her judgment and fair in her decision-making, and all these qualities combine to make her a

precious and prized legislative treasure whose mark of integrity is forever recorded across the pages of Tennessee Code Annotated; and

WHEREAS, providing legal counsel to one of the most intense and contentious standing committees of the General Assembly, Sally has capably met the challenge time and time again. Over more than three decades, she has flanked the previous Chairmen: Curry Todd, Ulysses Jones, Jr., Harold M. Love, Rufus Jones, Ted Ray Miller, and Roger Murray; and

WHEREAS, now as this extraordinary public servant prepares to step into her glory days of relaxation and retirement, the current State and Local Government Committee Chairman has been summoned to concisely summarize the whole of what Sally has meant to the committee; and the Chairman has responded with the words of the following poem:

Pedagogical the word of choice to frame our Sally Swaney
Charming, fair, lithe, beautiful and very, very Brainy.

Excited oft she gets verbose finds pathways we could not
Some expletives fire from her lips, but really not a lot.

No blindfold on this eager sage, she Bears the scales of Justice
We follow her through mires of code into the light she trusts us.

Czar Todd and Sal for decades made a team of wit and powers
They made the law and led the State to its finest hours.

She's leaving us for deserved peace, her family she will cherish
Without Sara we may be lost, but hopefully not perish.

Now Clay, he thinks he'll fit right in the void that makes eyes rainy
But, it will take a huge, huge heart to replace Sally Swaney; and

WHEREAS, despite her innate drive to draft, amend and excel, Sally is removing herself from the daily grind of full-time employment with every confidence that her days of repose will be made lively and rewarding. Unlimited quality time with her beloved son and daughter-in-law, David Allan and Patricia Lynn, and her wonderful grandchildren, Logan Allan Edward and Caitlyn Patricia, shall become the top priority of our dear friend and colleague; and

WHEREAS, finding much pleasure on the links, Sally will soon be free to indulge herself with endless rounds of golf, and she has, indeed, been desiring more golf time for quite a long time now; and

WHEREAS, a stalwart and devout Christian, Sally is a member of Cook's United Methodist Church in Mt. Juliet, and retirement will afford her even more time to work in the

various ministries of the church, especially the choral ministry which she dearly loves and enjoys; and

WHEREAS, at the close of a distinguished and highly productive career, it is with deepest gratitude and appreciation that this General Assembly acknowledges the gravity which Sally Swaney has brought to bear on the legislative process for more than three decades as she has so masterfully and reliably worked to craft meaningful, defensible, and efficacious laws for this great State which Sally adopted as her home some many years and so many bills ago; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we extend to Sally Swaney our deepest appreciation for her meritorious service to the State of Tennessee and express our endless gratitude for what she has meant, both professionally and personally, to so many members and staff with whom she has worked over the years. We give her our heartfelt wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement and every continued success in her future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.